



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 611

February Session, 2010

Substitute House Bill No. 5033

House of Representatives, April 21, 2010

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. GERAGOSIAN of the 25th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT REQUIRING A STUDY OF SEAT SAFETY BELTS ON SCHOOL BUSES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Motor
2 Vehicles, in consultation with the Commissioner of Education, shall
3 conduct a study of the feasibility of requiring each school bus that is
4 model year 2012 or newer to be equipped with lap/shoulder (3-point)
5 seat safety belts. Such study shall include, but not be limited to, a
6 consideration of safety issues and the cost to municipalities of such
7 requirement.

8 (b) Not later than October 1, 2010, the Commissioner of Motor
9 Vehicles shall submit a report on its findings, with any
10 recommendations for legislation, to the joint standing committees of
11 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
12 transportation, education and appropriations and the budgets of state
13 agencies, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the

14 general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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APP *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

The reporting requirements mandated by the bill would not result in additional cost to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

The Out Years***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5033*****AN ACT REQUIRING A STUDY OF SEAT SAFETY BELTS ON SCHOOL BUSES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the motor vehicles commissioner to study the feasibility of requiring model year 2012 and newer school buses to be equipped with lap/shoulder (3-point) seat belts. The study, which must be conducted in consultation with the education commissioner, must consider safety issues and the cost to municipalities.

The motor vehicles commissioner must report his findings and any recommended legislation to the Transportation, Education, and Appropriations committees by October 1, 2010.

EFFECTIVE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND***Federal Requirements***

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) regulations require seat belts on school buses whose fully loaded weight is less than 10,000 pounds (small school buses) but do not require them on buses weighing 10,000 pounds or more (large school buses) (49 CFR 571.222). NHTSA leaves the decision on whether to require seat belts on large school buses to individual states.

In 2009, NHTSA upgraded its school bus seat belt requirements, requiring that small school buses have 3-point, rather than lap belts, and setting performance standards for 3-point belts voluntarily installed in large school buses. These requirements apply to buses manufactured on and after October 21, 2011.

Legislative History

On April 7, the House referred the bill (File 268) to the Appropriations Committee, which favorably reported a substitute that replaced a requirement that 2012 or newer school buses be equipped with lap/shoulder seat belts with a study of that requirement's feasibility.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 29 Nay 7 (03/16/2010)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 41 Nay 10 (04/12/2010)